GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6499
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
DECENTRALISATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to decentralize public health system in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this regard so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Decentralization of health care is one of the focus areas included in the Tenth Five Year Plan as also in the National Health Policy-2002. The Policy lays great emphasis upon implementation of public health programmes through different levels of local self-government institutions and urges all State Governments to consider decentralizing the implementation of the disease control programmes to such institutions by 2005. The objective of the Policy of decentralization is to enable need-based allocation of resources, ensure area specific planning and monitoring, improve accountability of public health care providers and achieve intersectoral coordination.

(c): Two task forces set up by the government have suggested specific operationalization mechanism for devolution of functions to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and have evolved modalities for bringing implementation of centrally sponsored schemes within the purview of PRIs.State Governments are being pursued to transfer functions, functionaries and funds to different tiers of PRIs. Guidelines of various national disease control programmes are constantly reviewed for increasing the role of PRIs in their implementation.